

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROYAL PICTURE GALLERY, THE HAGUE, LENDS  
REMBRANDTS, VERMEER, HALS, OTHER DUTCH MASTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 18, 1982. Mauritshuis: Dutch  
Paintings of the Golden Age from the Royal Picture Gallery,  
The Hague opens in the National Gallery of Art's East  
Building on April 23. Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer,  
Frans Hals, Jacob van Ruisdael and Jan Steen are among the  
seventeenth-century Dutch masters whose paintings will be on  
view.

This exhibition was made possible in Washington by a  
generous grant from General Telephone and Electronics.

The Mauritshuis, built between 1633 and 1644 as a  
residence for Johan Maurits, son of Prince Willem the  
Silent of the House of Orange, combines the intimacy of  
a home with the elegance of seventeenth-century baroque  
architecture. Opened as a museum in 1822, it now contains  
some of the finest examples of Dutch painting in the world.

The exhibition coincides with the 200th anniversary of  
the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the  
United States and The Netherlands, the oldest continuous and  
peaceful relationship the United States has had with any  
foreign power. At the invitation of President Reagan,

(more)



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands will make a state visit to Washington on April 19, the first visit by a reigning monarch of The Netherlands royal family since Her Majesty Queen Juliana came to Washington in 1952. On April 20, Her Majesty will open the Mauritshuis exhibition.

The 40 paintings in the exhibition reflect the Dutch interest in a wide range of subjects: portraits, still life, landscapes, maritime scenes, cityscapes, religious themes, and depiction of ordinary events of daily life.

Also included are several paintings of birds and wildlife, including The Goldfinch, the renowned panel painting by the Delft artist Carel Fabritius. Only eight paintings are known by Fabritius, thought by many to be the teacher of Johannes Vermeer.

Head of a Young Girl, one of the most beautiful of Vermeer's rare paintings, exemplifies this Delft master's extraordinary handling of light. Its radiance comes from the natural, pure pigments -- the blues and yellows being distinct and yet soft in their blending of shapes and contours.

Rembrandt's Early Self Portrait, which was painted when the artist was twenty-three, is one of three works by this master in the exhibition. Here Rembrandt portrays himself as a nobleman, perhaps trying to impress the aristocracy of the Stadtholder's court.

Frans Hals' Head of a Young Boy exemplifies the Haarlem painter's vibrant style. His loose free brushwork is almost impressionistic and quite different from the techniques of his contemporaries.

(more)



Holland's greatest landscape painter, Jacob van Ruisdael, depicts the low-lying Dutch country in his View of Haarlem, a painting with an enormous sky. The sunlight passing through clouds highlights the orange roofs of a few houses and the bleaching fields that were found on the outskirts of Haarlem.

Other paintings in the exhibition portray ordinary people engaged in daily activities. As it is Sung so is it Twittered is a fine example of Jan Steen's exuberant portrayal of Dutch life. Steen has depicted in one scene the five senses: sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste. As with so many of his works, the theme is taken from a Dutch proverb interpreted here not to mean that elders teach their children to sing, but rather that their behavior -- for example, drinking and smoking -- influences the behavior of children.

The numerous maritime scenes reflect Holland's strong ties to trade and exploration. Ships in the Roads by Willem van de Velde and Ship Off the Coast, one of only twelve dated marine paintings by Jan van de Capelle, capture the atmospheric effects of the sea and Dutch sky.

A catalogue illustrating every work in color with scholarly entries by Dr. H. R. Hoetink, director of the Mauritshuis, will accompany the exhibition. Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., curator, Dutch and Flemish painting, National Gallery is coordinating the exhibition. Mr. Wheelock is working closely with the Gallery's design and installation department to recreate the atmosphere of the rooms in the Mauritshuis where these paintings are normally on view.

( m o r e )



"We at GTE," said Theodore Brophy, chairman and chief executive officer of General Telephone and Electronics, "are especially pleased to help bring the Mauritshuis collection to the National Gallery of Art this year as we celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of Dutch-American diplomatic relations. We welcome these exceptional works by the Dutch masters not only as great examples of creative genius but also as symbols of continued friendship and cooperation between our two nations."

After October 31, 1982, the exhibition will travel to the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas (November 20, 1982 - January 30, 1983), The Art Institute of Chicago (February 26, 1983 - May 20, 1983), and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (June 30, 1983 - September 11, 1983).

END

-----  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Carolyn Engel, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 842-6353.